

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 09219 01 OF 02 251156Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----106430 251203Z /53

O P 251050Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1634
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGUI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RBRAZZAVILLE PRIORITY POUCH
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KINSHAASA 9219

FROM CHARGE

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, OAU, AO, CG
SUBJECT: OAU VERIFICATION COMMISSION FOR ZAIRE/ANGOLA BORDER

REF: A) STATE 211378; B) KINSHASA 8910; C) KINSHASA 8954
D) KINSHASA 8981; E) KINSHASA 9096; F) KINSHASA 9159

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1. SUMMARY MOBUTU'S ACTING CABINET DIRECTOR AND
JURIDICAL COUNSELOR GAVE CHARGE RUN DOWN ON PLANNED OAU
VERIFICATION COMMISSION FOR ZAIRIAN/ANGOLAN BORDER.
WHILE PLANNING IS STILL IN VERY EARLY STAGE, BOTH SIDES
REPORTEDLY ARE COMMITTED TO MOVE QUICKLY AHEAD. USG
CONTRIBUTION TOWARD ASSISTANCE FOR VERIFICATION SYSTEM
PROBABLY WILL BE SOUGHT. END SUMMARY

2. ON AUGUST 23, I MET WITH ACTING DIRECTOR OF PRESIDENT'S CABINET, BOKANA W'ONDANGELE AND JURIDICAL COUNSELOR MUKE KANDONG TO DISCUSS ZAIRIAN/ANGOLAN RECONCILIATION. I TOLD BOKANA AND MUKE THAT WE REMAIN DEEPLY INTERESTED IN HAVING RECONCILIATION SUCCEED. I SAID WE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY FORMAL REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE, HOWEVER, AND IN FACT COULD NOT PREJUDGE HOW WE MIGHT RESPOND TO ANY SUCH REQUEST. AT THE SAME TIME WE WOULD WELCOME ANY CLARIFICATION THAT THE ZAIRIAN SIDE MIGHT WANT TO PROVIDE US ON PROPOSED VERIFICATION COMMISSION. WE FELT A NEED TO KEEP INFORMED, PARTICULARLY IF, AS PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAD TOLD AMBASSADOR CUTLER, WE MIGHT BE ASKED EVENTUALLY TO HELP. MUKE, WHO HAS PARTICIPATED IN 5 MIXED COMMISSION MEETINGS SINCE JAN 78 AND WHO WAS LISTED AS MEETINGS PARTICIPANT IN AUG 21 JOINT COMMUNIQUE, TOOK THE LEAD IN CONVERSATION AND PROVIDED FOLLOWING DETAILS.

3. MUKE CONFIRMED THAT PRESIDENTS MOBUTU AND NETO HAD AGREED ON NIGERIA, CAMEROON, SUDAN AND RWANDA AS COMMISSION MEMBERS. HE SAID THAT BEFORE THE RECENT MEETINGS, ANGOLA HAD WRITTEN A LETTER TO THE OAU REQUESTING ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A COMMISSION. MOBUTU AND NETO HAD AGREED DURING WEEKEND TALKS THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF ZAIRE AND ANGOLA SHOULD NOW CONFIRM SEPARATELY TO THE OAU IN PARALLEL LETTERS THE REQUEST WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE UNILATERALLY BY CONFIDENTIAL

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ANGOLA. UNTIL THESE LETTERS, NOW BEING PREPARED, ARE DELIVERED ZAIRE UNDERSTANDS THE OAU CONSIDERS THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN "SEIZED OF THE QUESTION." IN THE MEANTIME, NONE OF THE FOUR PROPOSED COMMISSION MEMBERS HAS BEEN ASKED OFFICIALLY TO SERVE. THESE PARTICIPANTS WOULD RECEIVE THEIR INVITATIONS FROM THE OAU AFTER THE LATTER AGREES TO THE ANGOLAN/ZAIRIAN REQUESTS.

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ACTION SS-25

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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
URUDTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 2412
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KINSHASA 9219

FROM CHARGE

EXDIS

4. GOZ AND GOA IN SERIES OF JOINT DISCUSSION OF THE
NATURE, DUTIES, AND METHODS OF OPERATION OF THE COMMISSION
HAVE NOT ATTEMPTED TO REACH FIRM CONCLUSIONS, ASSUMING
THAT THE MANDATE FOR THE COMMISSION WOULD BE DEFINED BY
THE OAU. NATURALLY, MUKE SAID, BOTH ZAIRE AND ANGOLA WOULD
EXPECT TO BE CONSULTED FULLY ON ANY PROPOSALS OF THE OAU.
HE SAID BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED THAT RWANDA AND CAMEROON
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SHOULD PROVIDE PERSONNEL FOR MANNING THE 9 VERIFICATION
POSTS IN ZAIRE AND THAT NIGERIA AND SUDAN SHOULD STAFF
EQUIVALENT NUMBER OF POSTS ON THE ANGOLAN SIDE OF THE BORDER.
LOCATIONS OF THESE 18 VERIFICATIONS POINTS HAD BEEN APPROVED
DURING THE AUG 20 MOBUTU/NETO MEETING. WHILE NO AGREEMENT
HAS BEEN SOUGHT BY EITHER SIDE ON WHETHER THE ORIENTATION
OF THE TEAMS SHOULD BE ESSENTIALLY MILITARY OR CIVILIAN,
GOZ LEANS TOWARD A MIXED BUT MAINLY MILITARY COMPOSITION
AND BELIEVES THE ANGOLANS ARE THINKING ALONG SIMILAR LINES.
WIDTH OF THE ZONE ALONG THE FRONTIER OVER WHICH THE
COMMISSION WOULD BE ASKED TO EXERCISE CONTROL WOULD BE
LEFT TO THE OAU TO WORK OUT. THE QUESTION OF WHAT
MEASURES MIGHT BE TAKEN ONCE A VIOLATION WAS REPORTED
HAS NOT BEEN THE SUBJECT OF ANY DETAILED DISCUSSIONS.

QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE WOULD BE FREQUENT PATROLS OR INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS ALSO ARE TOPICS TO BE CONSIDERED LATER BY THE OAU.

5. CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 18 TEAMS, MUKE SAID GOA AND GOZ HAD MADE COMMITMENTS THAT LOCAL EXPENSES SUCH AS LODGING AND LIVING EXPENSES WOULD BE PAID BY THE GOVERNMENT ON WHOSE TERRITORY THE TEAMS WERE INSTALLED. AS FOR WHAT KINDS OF ADDITIONAL SUPPORT MIGHT BE NEEDED, PLANNING WAS NOT FAR ENOUGH ADVANCED TO BE VERY PRECISE. MUKE ANTICIPATED THAT THE OAU WOULD WANT TO SEND A PRELIMINARY "PROSPECTION MISSION" TO THE TWO CAPITALS AND BORDER AREA AS NEXT STEP. SUCH PRELIMINARY MISSION WOULD BE EXPECTED TO DEFINE REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPPORTING THE COMMISSION. GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE ANTICIPATES A NEED AT LEAST FOR AIR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS AND DOES NOT RULE OUT NEED FOR OTHER ASSISTANCE. AS FOR WHICH COUNTRIES MIGHT BE ASKED TO PROVIDE LOGISTICAL OR OTHER SUPPORT, THIS WOULD BE LEFT LARGELY TO THE OAU. CONFIDENTIAL

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THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT COULD ACCEPT A PURELY AFRICAN OPERATION BUT WOULD BE "NOT TO DISCRIMINATE" AGAINST WESTERNERS OR OTHERS. PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS, MUKE SAID, ARE THAT OAU WILL WANT SUPPORT EFFORT TO BE TRULY MULTI-NATIONAL AND PROBABLY WILL SEEK WESTERN, INCLUDING USG HELP. FOR MOMENT, NEITHER ANGOLA NOR ZAIRE FORESEES A UN SECURITY COUNCIL ROLE IN THIS PROCESS.

6. MUKE SAID THAT RECONCILIATION WAS PROCEEDING VERY SATISFACTORILY. HOWEVER, HE FELT THAT BOTH SIDES STILL FEEL A STRONG NEED FOR VERIFICATION SYSTEM TO BE QUICKLY PUT INTO OPERATION AND WOULD GIVE THIS THEIR PRIORITY ATTENTION.

7. COMMENT: I INTERPRET WILLINGNESS OF BOKANA AND MUKE TO DISCUSS THEIR PLANNING SO OPENLY WITH US AS YET ANOTHER INDICATION THAT GOZ HOPES FOR EVENTUAL USG LOGISTIC, COMMUNICATIONS, AND/OR POSSIBLY OTHER SUPPORT FOR VERIFICATION PLAN. DAVIS

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